with summarize the arguments made in favor of patentability and respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejection and allow all pending claims.

Claims 1-10, 12-66, and 68-131 are pending in this application. In the final Office Action, all of the claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Grefenstette et al. in view of Lamburt et al.

As pointed out during the interview, the invention claimed herein performs a number of operations on a primary document, including extracting a query key, pre-fetching a query result by querying a data source, and evaluating a received result. These operations are performed <u>asynchronously</u> with respect to user interaction with that document. The user therefore <u>does not have to do anything</u> to trigger the operations, and indeed need not even be aware of the operations. A further limitation is that the pre-fetching operation is performed responsive to a connection with a data source being available. Query results are displayed for the user, for example at a later time, without regard to whether or not the connection with the data source is available.

A benefit of this invention is that the query result can be obtained without user intervention whenever a connection to the data source is available. Once the query result has been obtained, it is available to be shown to the user whenever the user looks at the primary document. The query result can be shown to the user even if, at the time it is being shown, no connection to the data source is available (since the query result has been pre-fetched).

Thus, the present invention provides a mechanism whereby data retrieval can take place automatically and asynchronously, without the need for the user to do anything to trigger such operations, and indeed without the need for the user to even be aware of the operations. Results of the data retrieval can then be shown to the user at a time that is convenient to the user, and without requiring the user to wait for retrieval to occur (since it has already occurred).

For example, data retrieval can take place automatically upon receipt of an e-mail message primary document, even though the user has not yet looked at the message. Then, when the user does look at the e-mail message, the retrieved data can be shown without further delay.

Neither of the cited references, taken alone or in any combination, teaches or suggests these limitations. Grefenstette merely describes automatic generation of queries by defining an organized classification of document content, identifying a set of entities for searching information, and formulating queries accordingly. Lamburt merely describes various techniques for performing data queries and synchronizing data updates, for example to reconcile two copies of a database. Lamburt discusses performing such data updates at off-peak times as part of a data maintenance process (col. 5, lines 25-24).

There is no hint or suggestion in either reference of a technique for pre-fetching query results in the manner claimed herein. In particular, there is no hint or suggestion of any technique for doing so asynchronously with respect to user inter-action, and responsive to a data source connection being available. Furthermore, nei-

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ther reference discloses evaluating received query results asynchronously with respect to user interaction, as claimed herein.

Furthermore, as discussed in the interview, the cited references fail to teach or suggest additional elements recited in the dependent claims, including for example:

- performing the operations in response to receiving the primary document (claim 2) – neither of the references make any mention of extracting, querying, receiving, and evaluating results in response to such an event;

- the primary document comprising an e-mail message (claim 6) – Grefenstette's mention of e-mail at 0192 refers to delivering a notice to inform the user that content has been enhanced, and does not refer to the primary document being an e-mail message; and

- determining whether the query result has previously been displayed in order to evaluate it (claim 27) – neither of the references make any mention of such an operation.
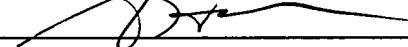
In view of the above remarks, and further in view of the arguments presented during the telephone interview, Applicants respectfully submit that the invention claimed herein is patentably distinct from the cited references, taken alone or in any combination.

Accordingly, consideration of this application and the early allowance of all claims herein are requested.

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Should the Examiner wish to discuss the above amendments and remarks, or if the Examiner believes that for any reason direct contact with Applicants' representative would help to advance the prosecution of this case to finality, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,
Derek E. Poppink and
Jonathan J. Hull

Dated: __March 23, 2005__   By: _____

Amir H. Raubvogel
Reg. No. 37,070
Fenwick & West LLP
801 California Street
Mountain View, CA 94306
Phone: (650) 335-7276
Fax: (650) 938-5200